AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-27 are CANCELED.

28. (New) A method of producing an AAV vector comprising:

(i) introducing into producer cells:

(a) a herpes virus which lacks a functional wild-type HSV ICP27 gene;

(b) a nucleic acid encoding an ICP27 protein, or a functional equivalent thereof from a non-HSV herpes virus, which allows replication of said herpes virus to occur and which has a reduced ability to inhibit RNA splicing compared to wild-type HSV ICP27;

(c) AAV rep and cap genes; and

(d) an AAV vector sequence; and

(ii) isolating the AAV vector particles produced.

29. (New) A method according to claim 28 wherein said herpes virus (a) comprises said nucleic acid (b).

30. (New) A method according to claim 28 wherein said nucleic acid (b) is stably or transiently infected into said producer cells.

31. (New) A method according to claim 28 wherein said AAV rep and cap genes (c) and/or said AAV vector sequence (d) are inserted into said herpes virus (a).

32. (New) A method according to claim 31 wherein said AAV rep and cap genes (c) and/or said AAV vector sequence (d) are inserted into the UL43 locus, US5 locus or LAT locus of said herpes virus.

33. (New) A method according to claim 28 wherein said AAV rep and cap genes and/or said AAV vector sequence (d) are stably or transiently transfected into said producer cells.

34. (New) A method according to claim 30 wherein said producer cells are stably transfected prior to infection with said herpes virus (a).

35. (New) A method according to claim 30 wherein said producer cells are transiently transfected before infection with said herpes virus (a).

36. (New) A method according to claim 30 wherein said producer cells are transiently transfected after infection with said herpes virus (a).

37. (New) A method according to claim 28 wherein the producer cells are BHK or Vero cells.

38. (New) A method according to claim 28 wherein said herpes virus is HSV-1 or HSV-2.

39. (New) Use according to claim 28 wherein said ICP27 protein is a functional equivalent of ICP27 from a non-HSV herpes virus.

40. (New) A method according to claim 39 wherein said functional equivalent is mutated.

41. (New) A method according to claim 28 wherein said ICP27 protein is a mutant HSV ICP27 protein.

42. (New) A method according to claim 41 wherein the mutant protein is an HSV ICP27 protein comprising an R480H/V496I double mutation.

43. (New) A method according to claim 28 wherein the herpes virus is a non-HSV herpes virus which further lacks its wild-type functional equivalent of the HSV ICP27 gene.

44. (New) An AAV vector produced by a method of claim 28.

45. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an AAV vector according to claim 44 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

46. (New) A method of producing a pharmaceutical composition comprising mixing an AAV vector according to claim 44 with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

47. (New) A method of producing a pharmaceutical composition comprising carrying out the method of claim 28 and formulating said isolated AAV vector particles with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

48. (New) A method of gene therapy comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of an AAV vector according to claim 44 to a patient in need thereof.

49. (New) A kit for producing an AAV vector comprising:

(a) a replication competent herpes virus which lacks a functional wild-type HSV ICP27 gene;

(b) a nucleic acid encoding an ICP27 protein, or a functional equivalent thereof from a non-HSV herpes virus, which allows replication of said herpes virus to occur and which has a reduced ability to inhibit RNA splicing compared to wild-type HSV ICP27;

(c) AAV rep and cap genes;

(d) an AAV vector sequence; and optionally

(e) producer cells

wherein said nucleic acid (b), said AAV rep and cap genes (c) and/or said AAV vector sequence (d) are incorporated into said herpes virus (a), are present on separate plasmids or are stably integrated into said producer cells (e).

50. (New) A replication competent herpes virus which

(a) lacks a functional wild-type HSV ICP27 gene;

(b) comprises a nucleic acid encoding an ICP27 protein, or a functional equivalent thereof from a non-HSV herpes virus, which allows

replication of said herpes virus to occur and which has a reduced ability to inhibit RNA splicing compared to wild-type HSV ICP27; and

(c) comprises AAV rep and cap genes.

51. (New) A herpes virus according to claim 50 which further comprises an AAV vector sequence.

52. (New) A herpes virus according to claim 50 wherein said AAV rep and cap genes are inserted into the UL43 locus, US5 locus or LAT locus of said herpes virus.

53. (New) A herpes virus according to claim 51 wherein said AAV vector sequence is inserted into the UL43 locus, US5 locus or LAT locus of said herpes virus.